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Officer Training School

Col Lawrence E. Pitts, Commander

Internet Address

<http://ots.afoats.af.mil/>

The Air Training Command activated the Officer Training School (OTS), at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, on 1 July 1959. OTS moved to the Lackland Training Annex in 1961. In November 1971, the Air Staff launched an extensive curriculum review that produced a core curriculum common to the Air Force Academy, AF ROTC, and OTS. On 22 September 1993, an era ended as OTS class 93-06 graduated at Lackland AFB. OTS began a new era at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, on 25 September 1993 when it became a part of Air University. From its inception, OTS has been committed to providing the best officers in the United States Air Force—a mission requiring dedication, superb instruction, and hard work.

Throughout its history, OTS has adapted to a challenging training environment that fosters its foundation on building future leaders. After graduating 12 women and 78 men in its first class, OTS successfully commissioned more than 500 second lieutenants its first year. By 1964 more than 10,000 individuals had graduated, and to date more than 101,000 officers have entered the Air Force through OTS. Over the years, OTS has functioned as a “flexible partner” to the other accessions sources to meet the constantly changing manning requirements of the Air Force. Additionally, the school began training already commissioned medical students, chaplains, and judge advocates in 1981 and medical service officers in 1991. In 1997 the Commissioned Officer Training School combined training programs for chaplains, judge advocates, and medical service officers and has trained over 7,600 newly commissioned officers.

OTS commissioning and training programs

- instill a commitment to the profession of arms,
- inspire internalization of AF core values,
- enhance officership skills,
- provide a relevant, up-to-date curriculum,
- meet USAF production goals, and
- create the best possible training environment.

Courses

OTS consists of two programs: Basic Officer Training (BOT) and Commissioned Officer Training (COT). BOT leads to a line officer commission as a second lieutenant. COT provides initial officership training for Air Force judge advocates, chaplains, and medical officers.

Basic Officer Training

BOT is a challenging program that imparts to its graduates the importance of discipline, attention to detail, dedication to service, and leadership. It stresses commitment to the profession of arms and motivates graduates to achieve the highest standards of integrity, excellence in all they do, and service before self. This challenging environment provides numerous tests for leadership skills through classroom and field training exercises and operation of the officer trainee wing. A four-day, three-night aerospace expeditionary force (AEF) exercise is the capstone event for BOT.

Commissioned Officer Training

COT was developed in 1996. It provides the fundamentals of officership and the initial leadership training required for newly commissioned AF officers (active duty, ANG, and Air Reserve Component). It stresses commitment to the profession of arms and motivates graduates to achieve the highest standards of integrity, excellence in all they do, and service before self. The rank of COT students ranges from second lieutenant to colonel depending on the newly commissioned officers' professional qualifications. A three-day, two-night AEF exercise is the capstone event for COT. The Medical Readiness Indoctrination Course (MRIC) is incorporated into the AEF exercise for medical service officers.

The Reserve Commissioned Officer Training (RCOT) course was developed in 1999. This course was designed to train (hard to recruit) guard and reserve medical professionals. It combines correspondence work and a Web-based pretest with a demanding 14-day in-residence course.

Programs and Operations

OTS currently conducts split operations at Maxwell AFB and at the Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex. COT operations will move to Maxwell AFB during FY03 and collocate with BOT. Currently, the AEF exercise, uses

two locations: the Vigilant Warrior site, a 200-acre field-training site near Lake Jordan, Alabama, and the Blue Thunder field-training site on Maxwell AFB.

The OTS program is continually assessed with survey data, and course content is reviewed to improve program effectiveness. There is currently an ongoing \$52 million military construction (MILCON) project at OTS to build a new campus. The new 40-classroom academic facility, fitness center, dining facility, and two 90-room dormitories are complete. One 120-room dormitory and a COT academic addition are currently under construction. An additional 120-room dormitory is funded, and upon completion of all these projects by FY04, all OTS operations will be consolidated at Maxwell AFB.

OTS makes every effort to furnish incoming officer candidates with information to facilitate their transition to commissioned officer status. The OTS home page (<http://ots.afloats.af.mil/>), gives prospective trainees ready access to current information on OTS. The home page assists students with preparing mentally and physically for OTS.

Other initiatives include a newly revamped, intensive physical conditioning program designed to build endurance and strength and to improve students' knowledge of the AF wellness lifestyle. Formal retreat ceremonies instill a sense of pride for AF customs and courtesies. An interservice athletic competition with Army and Navy counterparts in joint military athletic events increases pride and understanding of sister-service programs.

Curriculum

The major areas of instruction are leadership studies, military training and application, profession of arms, military studies/international security studies, and communications skills. OTS teaching methods include auditorium lectures, readings, flight room classes (informal lecture, guided discussion, and case studies), and practical exercises (sports campaigns, Leadership Reaction Course, and Vigilant Warrior).

Duration and Quota

OTS currently conducts eight BOT classes, nine COT classes, and two RCOT classes each year. The BOT program is 12 weeks long (60 training days), the COT program is four weeks long (23 training days), and the RCOT program is two weeks long (14 training days) plus the correspondence portion. In fiscal year 2001 BOT graduated approximately 1,850 students, and COT graduated nearly 1,400 students—total yearly production over 3,200. In fiscal year 2001, BOT

averaged about 250 officer trainees per class. COT had an average of 125 students per class. In fiscal year 2002, it is generally expected that these numbers will remain the same.

Prerequisites and Selection

Students attending BOT must have a bachelor's degree, be less than 30 years of age (waiverable to the age of 35), and meet the minimum physical requirements for becoming an officer. Competition for entry into this program is quite rigorous.

Curriculum Summaries

Basic Officer Training

Instructional Area	Academic Hours
Leadership Studies	39.75
Communication Skills	47.00
Profession of Arms	41.50
Military Studies	31.75
Military Training and Application	113.25
Admin/Processing/Testing/Orientation	171.25
TOTAL	444.50

Commissioned Officer Training

Instructional Area	Academic Hours
Leadership Studies	31.50
Communication Skills	8.75
Profession of Arms	31.25
Military Studies	16.50
Military Training and Application	16.75
Admin/Testing	54.00
AEF Exercise	24.00
TOTAL	182.75

**Reserve Commissioned Officer Training
(In-Residence Portion)**

Instructional Area	Academic Hours
Leadership Studies	18.50
Communication Skills	7.00
Profession of Arms	19.50
Military Studies	13.00
Military Training and Application	11.50
Admin/Testing	22.75
AEF Exercise	29.00
TOTAL	121.25

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